Allotment of wheat and rice to states

1430. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) what was the allotment of rice and wheat statewise during the last 3 years and also the procurement of these two commodities statewise during the same period ; and

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been shortage of rice and wheat in the States; if not what are the reasons for wheat being imported ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) Statement indicating allotment of rice and wheat to States/UTs during 1989. 1990 and 1991 is at Annexure-I

[*See* Appendix CLXII, Annexure No. 40]

Statement indicating Statewise procurement of rice and wheat during the marketing seasons of 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 is at Annexure-II.

[*See* Appendix CLXII Annexure No. 40]

(b) The Government have decided to import one million tonnes of wheat with a view to improve the availability of wheat and to contain open market prices.

Subsidy on Import of wheat

1431. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any offers of subsidy on import of wheat from certain countries;

(b) if so, which are those countries d the extent of subsidy offered by them; and

(c) the quantity of wheat in tonnes proposed to be imported

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) to (c) The Government have recently decided to import one million tonnes of wheat. No contracts for import have, however, bed so far.

Distribution of flour through PDS

@1432. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in lieu of wheat which is sold by the shops under Public Distribution System; flour will be supplied to consumers since February, 1992 ;

(b) if so, whether this change has been made on the demands of the consumers;

(c) whether Government are aware that consumers have not liked the proposed change; and if so, whether Government will revoke it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) The Central Government allocates wheat from the Central Pool to the State Govts./UTs for supply through the Public Distribution System. However, it is open to the State Govts./UTs to convert the wheat into atta and distribute it under the Public Distribution System.

(b) and (c) Since these matters fall within the purview of the State Governments/UTs, the Central Government has no information to furnish.

Increase in the prices of wheat and rice

@@1433. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently increased the prices of some of the items like wheat, rice and sugar being distributed through the Fair Price Shops;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of times the prices of these items were increased during the last two years and the percentage of rise in success on each occasion;

@Previously Unstarred Question 426, transferred from 27th February, 1992.

@@Previously Unstarred Question 446, transferred from 27th February, 1992.

(d) whether it is also a fact that such increases have created a large scale dissatisfaction among the people; and

(e) if so, whether Government propose to reduce the prices immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) The Central issue prices for Public Distribution System for wheat and rice (Ex-FCI godown) have been increased w.e.f. 28-12-1991 with a view to partially absorb the increase in the Minimum Support Price of wheat and paddy.

The retail issue price of levy sugar has been raised from 21-1-92 on account of the upward revision of zonal ex-factory levy sugar prices.

(c) The information is as follows:—

Effective From	Percentage of increase over the previous Central Issue Prices		
WHEAT			
1-5-90		14.7%	
28-12-91		19.7%	
RICE	COMMON	FINE	S. *FINE*
25-6-90	18.4%	14.8%	13.8%
28-12-91	30.4%	25.2%	23.8%
SUGAR			
24-7-91		16.2%	
21-1-92		13.1%	

(d) No, Sir. However, few representations expressing resentment against increase in Central issue prices of wheat and rice from 28-12-91 have been received from individuals, association and some State Governments.

(e) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Change in supply of Rice throgh Public—Distribution Systemu

1434. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any change in supply of rice through Public Distribution system, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and whether there is any revision in the procurement target in Andhra Pradesh; and if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) The allocation of rice from the Central Pool to various States/Union Territories for the Public Distribution System are meant for the State as a whole and the distribution within the State, including its coverage and scale of issue to the consumers, is decided by the concerned State Government. As regards procurement, wheat, paddy and coarsegrains are procured under price suoport operation scheme, while rice is collected by way of statutory levy imposed on the rice millers. Therefore, no target of procurement can be fixed by the Government.

Functions of certain bodies

1435. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) what is the tenure, composition and functions of (i) Standing Research Advisory Committees, (ii) Development Council for Sugar Industry; and (iii) Standing Advisory Committee on Sugar Standards; and

(b) when these were last constituted and when the same are likely to be reconstituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) The tenure of the Development Council for Sugar Industry and its two Standing Committees, viz. Standing Research Advisory Committee and Standing Advisory Committee on Sugar Standards is for a period of 2 years. The tenure of the two Standing Committees runs concurrently with the tenure of the Development Council for Sugar Industry. The functions of the Council and its two Standing Committees are at Statements I, II and III respectively. (*See below*) The composition of the Council Committees has yet to be decided as they are in the process of being reconstituted.

(b) The Development Council for Sugar Industry and the two Standing Committees were last constituted *vide* Orders dated 27-2-1989, 17-7-1989 and 17-7-1989 respectively, all with effect from 27-2-1989. The term of the aforesaid Council/Committees expired on 26-2-1991. The Development Council